

Ocelot

A PREVIEW

Skim the essay's title and photographs. Based on these text features, what types of information do you expect to find in the essay?

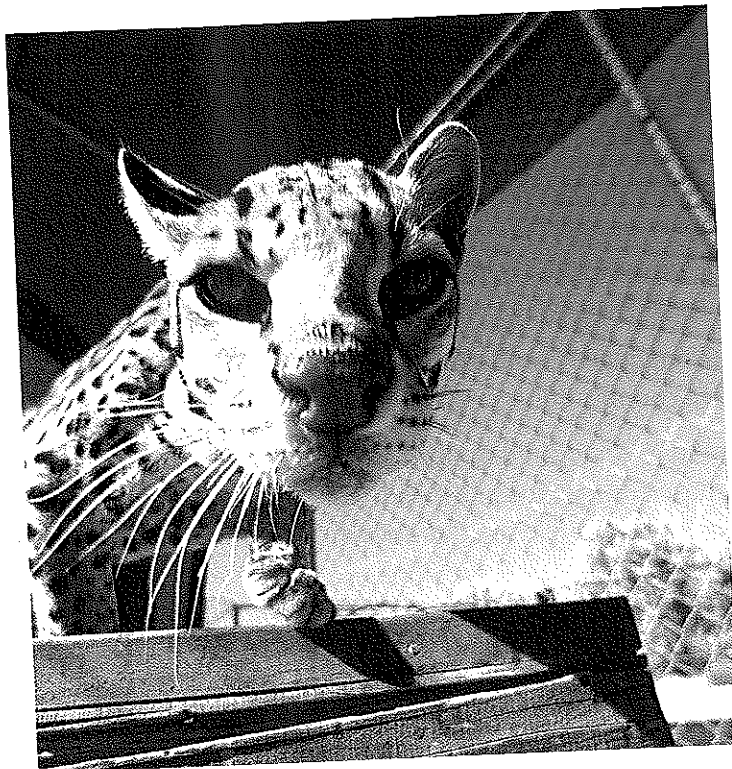
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n. the condition of being confined or not free

Should Wild Animals Be Kept as Pets? **A**

The Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States strongly opposes keeping wild animals as pets. This principle¹ applies to both native and nonnative species, whether caught in the wild or bred in **captivity**. The overwhelming majority² of people who obtain these animals are unable to provide the care they require.

1. **principle:** a policy or rule.
2. **overwhelming majority:** most or almost all.



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Caring for Wild Animals Is Difficult or Impossible **B**

Despite what animal sellers may say, appropriate care for wild animals requires considerable expertise,³ specialized facilities,⁴ and lifelong dedication to the animals. Their nutritional and social needs
10 are demanding to meet and, in many cases, are unknown. They often grow to be larger, stronger, and more dangerous than owners expect or can manage. Small cats such as ocelots and bobcats can be as deadly to children as lions and tigers. Wild animals also pose a danger to human health and safety through disease and parasites.⁵

Baby Animals Grow Up

Baby animals can be irresistibly adorable—until the cuddly baby becomes bigger and stronger than the owner ever imagined. The **instinctive** behavior of the adult animal replaces the dependent behavior of the juvenile, resulting in biting, scratching, or displaying
20 destructive behaviors without provocation⁶ or warning. Such animals typically become too difficult to manage and are confined to small cages, passed from owner to owner, or disposed of in other ways. There are not enough reputable sanctuaries⁷ or other facilities to properly care for unwanted wild animals. They can end up back in the exotic pet trade.⁸ Some may be released into the wild where, if they survive, they can disrupt the local ecosystem.⁹ **C**

Wild Animals Spread Disease

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention¹⁰ discourages direct contact with wild animals for a simple reason: They can carry
30 diseases that are dangerous to people, such as rabies, herpes B virus, and Salmonella. The herpes B virus commonly found among macaque monkeys can be fatal to humans. Thousands of people

3. **considerable expertise**: a great deal of knowledge and experience.

4. **specialized facilities**: places that are created and used for a specific function.

5. **parasites** (păr'ə-sīts'): animals that live on or in other animals and feed off of them.

6. **provocation** (pröv'ə-kā'shən): something done to cause anger or irritation.

7. **reputable sanctuaries** (rēp'yə-tə-bəl sāngk'chōō-ēr'ēz): trustworthy and reliable places that provide protected areas for animals.

8. **exotic pet trade**: the business of buying and selling wild, and sometimes rare, animals.

9. **ecosystem**: a community of living things, together with their environment.

10. **The Centers . . . Prevention**: One of 13 groups that are part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which works to protect the health and safety of Americans. Also referred to by its acronym: CDC.

B PREVIEW
Preview the article's subheadings. Why do you think they have been included in the essay?

instinctive
(ĭn-stĭngk'tĭv) *adj.*
of or about the natural behaviors of a type of animal

C PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUES
Reread lines 15–26. What emotional appeals are used in this section? Add this information to your chart. What strong feelings do these emotional appeals stir up?



TEKS 10B

ANALYZE ARGUMENT

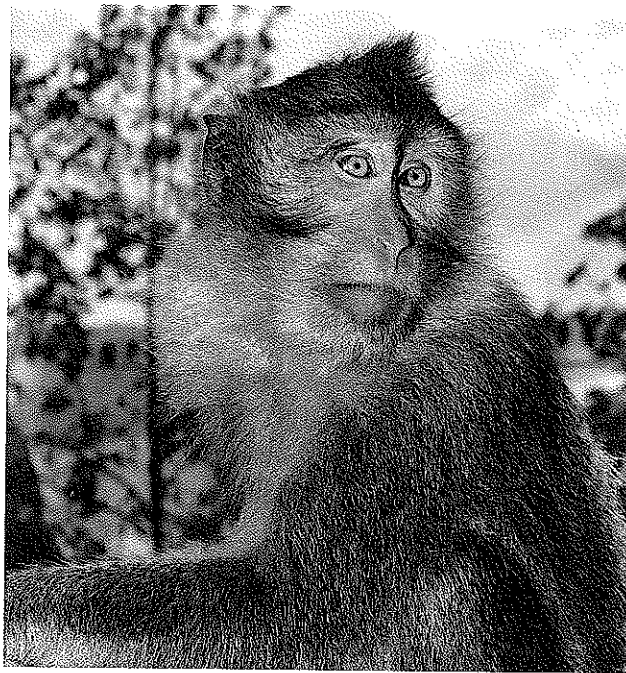
Frequently, persuasive arguments are written to influence the way you feel about an important issue. Some arguments might try to convince you to agree with an issue; others attempt to build opposition to an issue. Regardless of the idea it supports, an argument will include facts and other forms of evidence to build its case. This persuasive text is written to influence the way readers feel about keeping wild animals as pets. Identify the facts included in lines 27–38. How do these facts strengthen the argument against keeping wild animals as pets?

domesticate

(də-mēs'tī-kāt') v.
to tame a wild species of animal over generations

unsuitable

(ŭn-sōō'tə-bəl) adj. not appropriate or fitting



Long-tailed macaque monkey

get Salmonella infections each year from contact with reptiles or amphibians, causing the CDC to recommend that these animals be kept out of homes with children under five. A recent outbreak of monkeypox¹¹ was set in motion when small mammals carrying the disease were imported for the pet trade and infected native prairie dogs, which were also sold as pets. ⑩

Domestication Takes Thousands of Years

- 40 Wild animals are not domesticated simply by being captive-born or hand-raised. It's a different story with dogs and cats, who have been domesticated by selective breeding for desired traits over thousands of years. These special animal companions depend on humans for food, shelter, veterinary care, and affection. Wild animals, by nature, are self-sufficient and fare best without our interference. The instinctive behavior of these animals makes them unsuitable as pets.

11. **monkeypox**: a virus first found in monkeys, which is harmful and sometimes fatal to both humans and animals.



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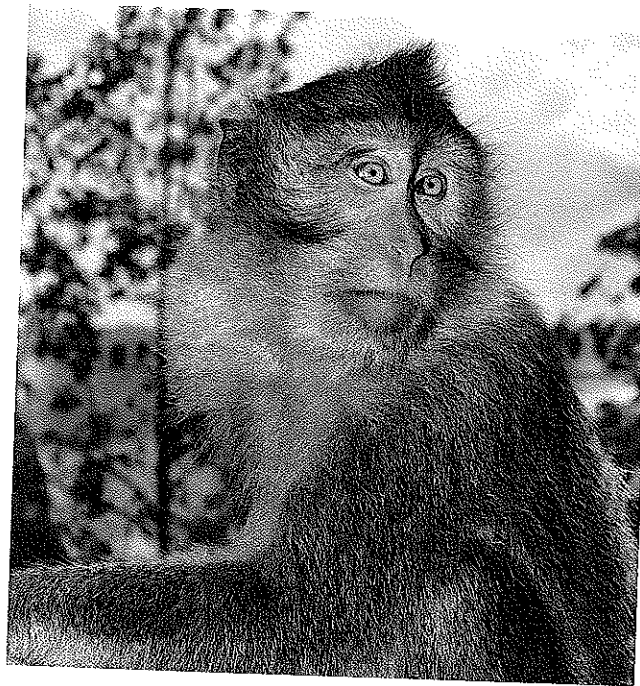
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Capturing Wild Animals Threatens Their Survival

When wild-caught animals are kept as pets, their suffering may begin with capture—every year millions of birds and reptiles suffer and die on the journey to the pet store. Even after purchase, their lives are likely to be filled with misery. If they survive, they may languish¹² in a cramped backyard cage or circle endlessly in a cat carrier or aquarium. More often, they become sick or die because their owners are unable to care for them properly. The global wild pet trade continues to threaten the existence of some species in their native habitats. ⑥

Having any animal as a pet means being responsible for providing appropriate and humane care. Where wild animals are concerned, meeting this responsibility is usually impossible. 60 People, animals, and the environment suffer the consequences.

12. **languish** (läng'gwīsh): suffer in a state of neglect or indifference.

*Prairie dog***Language Coach****Negative Connotations**

This essay uses words like *suffering*, *misery*, and *languish*. These are words with strong **negative connotations**, or suggested meanings. What is the emotional effect of such strong words?

PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUES

Reread lines 47–56. Record examples of the loaded language used in this section in your chart.